Spread of 'Hanta Virus'

1132. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govenment are aware about the surfacing of 'Hanta Virus' a deadly life threatening disease in the country;

(b) if so, the number and details of such cases;

(c) the details of the treatment of the patients; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to prevent its surfacing in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) As per the information received from Indian Council of Medical Research, recent study conducted by the Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore and published in Indian Journal of Medical Research is the first report of the presence of Hanta Virus infection in humans in India. The 'Study for Serological evidence of Hanta virus infection in human population in South India' was done on serum samples from 152 fever patients showing symptoms of dengue and leptospirosis. Out of these patients, 23 were found positive for Anti-Hanta virus IgM. Inaddition, 87 blood donors were also studied in which 5.7% were found to be positive for Anti-Hanta virus IgM. These findings indicate the possibility of the presence of Hantavirus infection in India.

There is no specific treatment for Hanta virus infection, only symptomatic and supportive therapy is provided. However, Ribavinn is found to be effective in complicated infections of Hanta virus.

Withdrawal of recognition to medical degrees from erstwhile U.S.S.R.

1133. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian students who had obtained medical degrees from the colleges in erstwhile U.S.S.R.;

(b) whether Government are aware that a large number of such students did not even have any science subjects in 10+2 examination, which is compulsory for such students;

(c) whether it is a fact that M.C.I. had recommended the withdrawal of recognition of degrees of those institutions; and

(d) if so, the action Government had taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) As per the information obtained from Medical Council of India, the Council has no information on the number of Indian students who obtained medical degrees from colleges in erstwhile U.S.S.R.

Various references were received from different sources including Medical Council of India on the deterioration in the standard of medical education in several institutions abroad including U.S.S.R. The Govt. therefore, amended the provisions of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 through the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 2001. Under this Amendment the MCI notified two notifications namely 'The Screening Test Regulation, 2002' and 'The Eligibility Requirement for taking admission, in an undergraduate medical course in a Foreign Medical Institution Regulations, 2002'. As per 'The Screening Test Regulation, 2002', any Indian citizen possessing a primary medical qualification awarded by any medical institution outside India, who is desirous of getting provisional or permanent registration with Medical Council of India or any State Medical Council on or after 15th March 2002, shall have to qualify in the Screening Test conducted by the prescribed authority for that purpose. The primary medical qualification possessed by the Indian students must be a recognized medical qualification for enrollment as medical practitioner in the country in which the institution awarding the said qualification is situated and which is equivalent to MBBS in India. 'The Eligibility Requirement for taking admission in an undergraduate medical course in a Foreign Medical Institution Regulations, 2002' prescribes that a person who is a citizen of India shall not on or after 15.3.2002 be eligible to get admission to obtain medical qualification in a medical institution in any foreign country without obtaining an eligibility certificate from Medical Council of India and in case such person obtains such qualification without obtaining such eligibility certificates, he shall not be eligible to appear in the above said Screening Test.

Leprosy eradication in India

1134. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a large number of leprosy cases in Andhra Pradesh alone;

(b) if so, the number of leprosy patients/affected people in the country, State-wise;